

Educators Put Welfare of Children Above Wage Issue

Teachers Have Own Program Of Reforms

The National Association Emphasizes Wage Issue as Grave One in Future Welfare of Schools

A Guide for Congress

Conservative Ideas Held as Worthy of Considering in Mapping Program

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The National Education Association naturally will take a leading part in the fight for better pay for teachers, and in considering the question Congress might well take cognizance of the results of its recent national convention. The association believes the program for the betterment of the teachers' wage standing should be pressed by every one interested in the future of our schools and colleges.

The convention held that the foremost question was the enlistment of enough teachers to supply bare needs. An element of usefulness may be seen in thus placing the welfare of the child above pecuniary considerations for the teachers themselves. The association frankly stated that the call cannot be answered unless adequate financial remuneration is provided, and it suggested an urban minimum of \$1,500 and a rural minimum of \$1,200 a year.

Other reforms proposed included a more adequate Federal cooperation in education. Federal subsidies for schools, readjustment of tax systems to permit a more liberal expenditure for schools, extension of the compulsory school age. None of the items is radical, but on the other hand they are marked by almost extreme conservatism.

The association also would include military training in some form as a vital part of physical education. The educators also voted to assist in encouraging thrift and discouraging the growing vice of waste.

The program of the teachers, as briefly outlined here, certainly should bear a great appeal, not only with the leaders of Republican party thought, but with the millions of true, loyal Americans, whose interest must and always will be to raise our school standards to the highest peak of efficiency attainable. MATTHEW C. BAINES.

Republican Party Stands For Good of the Majority

Fair Deal Assured for All Who Place Their Fortunes in Its Keeping

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: President Compers of the American Federation of Labor in urging against that body merging itself with any independent labor party, states, in effect, that it is to the best interests of labor to throw its support to that one of the two major parties which offers men and principles best suited to the needs of labor.

The basic principle of the Republican party is universal service. It has sought ever to foster only those ideals which conform most truly to the interests of the nation as a whole. Rather than to have championed the cause of any one minor class to the exclusion of all other interests, it is the traditional policy of the Republican party to foster the interests of the majority.

If labor seeks to create in itself an autocratic or a dictatorial power, then may it look elsewhere than to the Republican party for sympathy with its cause.

But if it seeks a square deal; if it seeks legislation that will enhance its individual rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," then, if these rights conflict not with the "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" of the public in general, may it look to the Republican party for sympathetic action in its favor.

ROBERT W. SCRANTON,
150 Portsea Street, New Haven, Conn.

To-Day's Prize Letter

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Changing the Presidential term to six years, making the President ineligible for reelection for the immediate succeeding term, extending the terms of the Representatives to three years and ultimately dividing the Senators into two classes instead of three would do away with some of the elections of which we have far too many and would remove from the mind of a President all thought of immediately succeeding himself, the cause of the undoing of many administrations.

A President would in fact be the President of all the people and not merely of his party. The country would be the gainer, and the President would retire at the end of his term feeling better satisfied with the result of his administration, and with the respect and good will of all citizens.

Congressional elections as now held occur too frequently. They are apt to keep business continually disturbed and unsettled. If the terms of the Representatives are lengthened better results may be attained, for a Representative will not immediately weigh his every action in the light of a coming campaign.

The terms of the Senators are

unchanged by the proposed amendment, but the Senators ultimately would be divided into two classes, one-half being chosen in the Presidential year and one-half three years thereafter. To bring this about without curtailing the terms of any Senator now in office the Senate would be authorized to fix by lot tentative short terms for successors of Senators whose terms are about to expire, so that ultimately one-half of the present Senate would be chosen in a Presidential year and the other half three years thereafter.

Such tentative terms if the amendment were in effect this year might be planned substantially as follows: In the year 1920 thirty-two Senators would be chosen for three-year terms, in 1922 sixteen Senators for one-year terms and sixteen Senators for four-year terms, in the year 1924 thirty-two Senators for two-year terms, so that in 1923 forty-eight Senators would be chosen for full six-year terms and in 1928, the next Presidential year, the other one-half of the Senate would be chosen, and so on.

An election once every three years would be sufficient and answer all necessary purposes.

ANTHONY P. FINDER, Troy, N. Y.

U. S. Senators Talk Too Much

System That Permits Filibustering Put Down as a National Evil

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It has often been remarked that the United States Senate enjoys freedom of debate to a degree unequalled by any other legislative organization in the world. Years ago this liberal system may have promoted continuity and eloquence of discussion, but its outstanding effect to-day is to produce irritating obstruction and interminable delay in the passage of necessary measures.

Few will deny that the rights of the minority should be protected, but what about the majority's rights? Are these to be subordinated? Only three years ago, while we were still neutral and our merchant ships were sailing the high seas at their peril, a little group of "willful men"—twelve members of the Senate—succeeded in halting the enactment of the bill that gave our ships the right to arm. What more shameful example of a vicious filibuster can we ask?

The old days of unlimited debate were tolerable only as long as the business to be handled was small. The present great pressure on the Senate demands a more efficient method. Closure on any question should be permitted if three-fourths of the members concur. Dissenting members should, however, be given the privilege of having their undelivered speeches printed in the Record.

Little reforms of this nature rarely find places in party platforms, but they should be given careful attention.

J. W. F.

Maritime Co-operation Urged

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It should be our policy to pull together with those countries desiring maritime co-operation. Antagonism will be the result of direct competition between any of the great commercial countries of the world. The outcome—war. History proves this fact. The United States is now governed on two basic principles that imply partial success—efficiency and ability. In order to have complete success we must have world-wide co-operation.

ALF. YOUNG.

Stricter Immigration Laws

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Republican party would make a great hit with the American people if it would advocate more stringent immigration laws.

Our laws are far too lax. We have practically no literacy test. Any alien might be trained to memorize a few words.

B. YORKSTONE HOGG.

U.S. Must Apply Economy In Her Hour of Thrift

Budget System and Application of Surplus Revenue Where Needed Most Are Proposed

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: While our country has such wonderful resources and times are prosperous there is little incentive for strict economy; but it is a good time to do a little planning for the future. There is talk of a budget system to put our national finances on a sound business basis and to eliminate "pork-barrel" politics.

My suggestion is to take as a basis the yearly production of our various industries. If the dollars and cents value of the agricultural products of the United States for the last year should exceed that of any other industry, let us spend more of our revenue this year on agriculture. Whether we spend more or less than ever before is not so important as having some definite plan.

CHARLES E. MORGAN.

Vigilance Is Demanded To Preserve the Union

Revolution in the Air and Means Must Be Found to Stamp It Out

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Towering above all other questions to be covered by the Republican platform is, it seems to me, the preservation of the Union painfully put together by the fathers, and, at great cost, preserved to the present moment. Revolution is in the air, and optimism the ostrich, hiding his head in the sand.

It doesn't soften the thing to say that the assault is upon capital, as witness the A. F. of L.; or upon capitalism, as in the case of the Communists. Capitalism is the existing order; it is founded upon an immutable law, and is indestructible; but society founded upon it can be turned exactly upside down, and it is a horrible process.

Labor to-day demands partnership; to-morrow, control. Socialism, in different terms, demands control in behalf of the proletariat, the lower stratum, and the two are now traveling together, with the criminal class behind, hiding its time.

Capitalism cannot be overturned without first smashing the Union. The issue should be definitely met in the platform, and the principle stated that the welfare of all is superior to that of any class.

The plank covering this feature should be entirely devoid of any terms of compromise, assurances of esteem or trace of fear.

S. A. L.

Big 'IF' Stands As Obstacle to 'Sure' Victory

'A Man, a Real Man,' Needed as Republican Guide to Clinch Presidency. Next November Battle Is Not Yet Won

'Over-Confidence' a Good Thing to Beware of in Humanity's Struggles

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: "This is a Republican year" is heard often these days, but isn't there danger in shouting too much? Over-confidence has lost many a battle, every phase of the word "battle" being considered. Confidence is a dangerous attribute to temper with. Just enough, and it's all right—a little too much, and it may all count for naught. We Republicans should take our confidence of winning in 1920 with a very forcible and avowed "if."

All things equal, we might say, "this is a Republican year," but it remains for the convention in Chicago to do the equalizing or a little better than that.

Partisanship alone is well to beware of, as being inimical to the phrase "Of the people, by the people, for the people."

There's a big load to be carried and it is going to take a man with abnormally broad shoulders to bear it.

Some Suggested Planks

Among the mass of suggestions for planks in the Republican platform are the following:

Public Health Department

The Republican party favors the creation of a national department of health, with a Cabinet minister at its head. We also favor the enactment of health insurance legislation. This follows logically upon workmen's accident compensation, which has been adopted by most states. The United States is the one great industrial nation that does not insure the worker against illness. Health insurance is the best incentive to health conservation.—Ruth L. Benjamin, 46 West Eighty-third Street, New York City.

Adjustment of Wages

The reduction of the high cost of living being one of the most important problems before the nation to-day, it shall be part of the Republican policy to take immediate action to bring the necessities of life as near to the prices of pre-war days as will be possible under existing conditions. In order that this can be brought about in an agreeable and equitable way measures shall also be undertaken for the adjustment of wages and profits on a fair and satisfactory basis.—Emil C. Wahlstrom, Dillon, Col.

Harmony in Industry

Capital and labor: We pledge an inexorable campaign to bring these two great public powers to a realization that the welfare of the nation comes before their own; that harmony is indispensable; that arbitration and appraisal, just enforcement for labor performed and fair returns on investment—first and always consulting the common good—shall inevitably come. We pledge just and equitable legislation as well as moral pressure to this end.—H. M. Halston, Glacier Park, Mont.

Another Reservation

The United States reserves the right, except when specifically waived, at any time, by its usual legislative procedure, to protest any settlement contained or sanctioned in the Treaty of Versailles. The United States further reserves the right within one year of the propo-

sed to it of a procedure for any new settlement to reject it, and thereby its consequences, by a majority vote of Congress in joint session. The United States assumes no obligation to enforce such protested or rejected settlements. No other member of the league shall be denied the right to maintain a similar reservation.—Elmer Cornelius, 227 East Onondaga Street, Syracuse, N. Y.

If we pick a man who will be considered capable of grasping a situation and then be big enough to rise up to meet the situation.

If we pick an imaginative man—

I say, if we have a candidate bearing the Republican standard who is capable of supplying all these needs, or nearly all, it is as good as all over now except for the shouting.

"Any man at all" won't win on the Republican ticket or on any other ticket. The winner in 1920 must be a man—a real man. C. F. E.

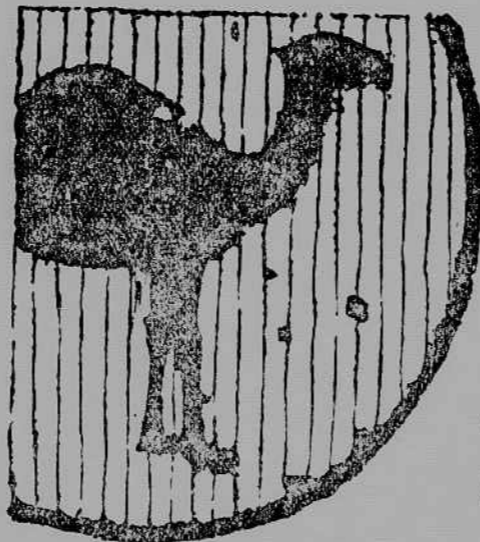
Care for Mind and Body

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In a few years we shall be living under a government largely dominated by our children and grandchildren. It is therefore of the utmost importance that our children be cared for in mind and body so that practical knowledge, the wisdom of common sense and a thorough understanding of self-government will enable them to not only more surely safeguard their own liberties, but the liberties of their fathers and children also. FRED N. PARKS, Norwich, N. Y.



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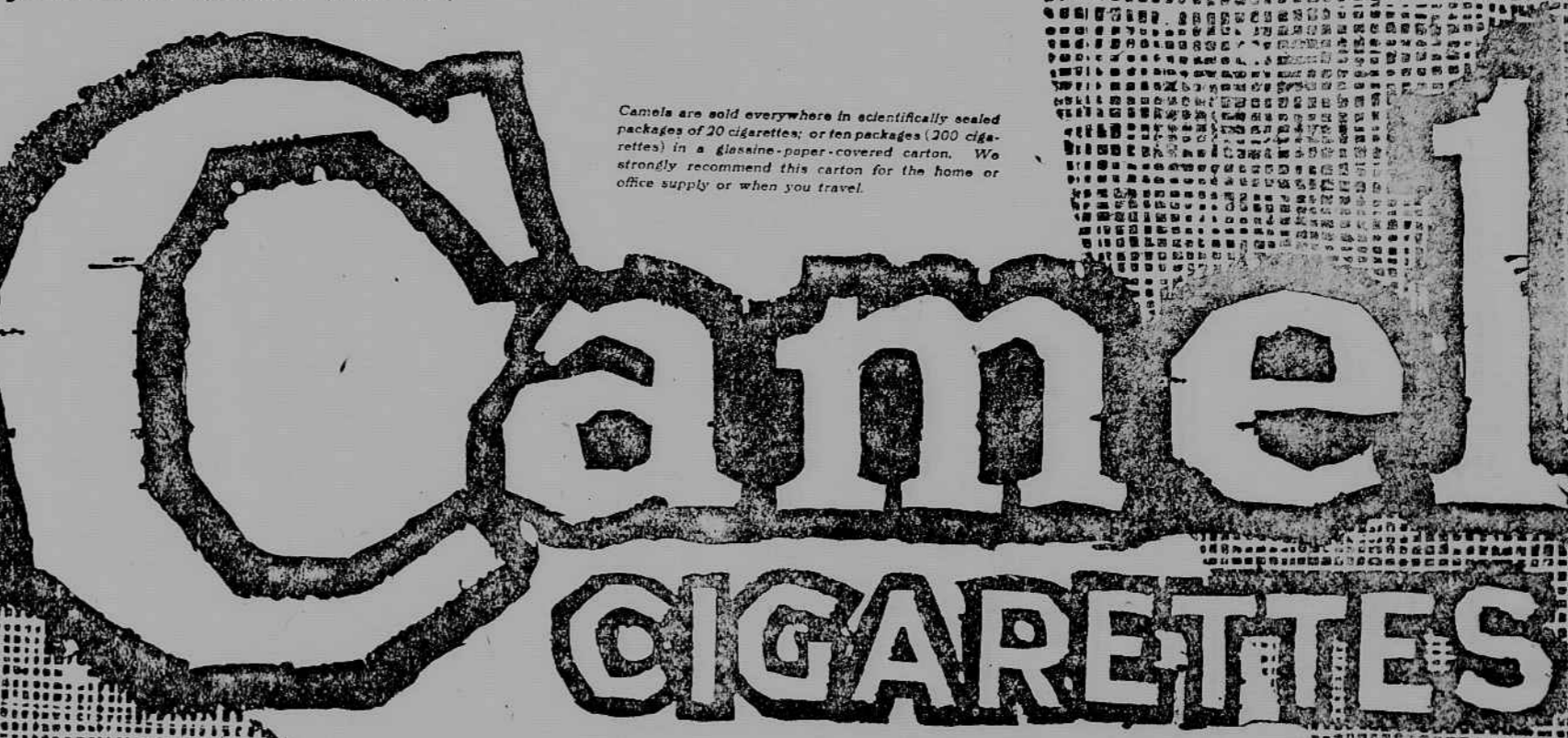
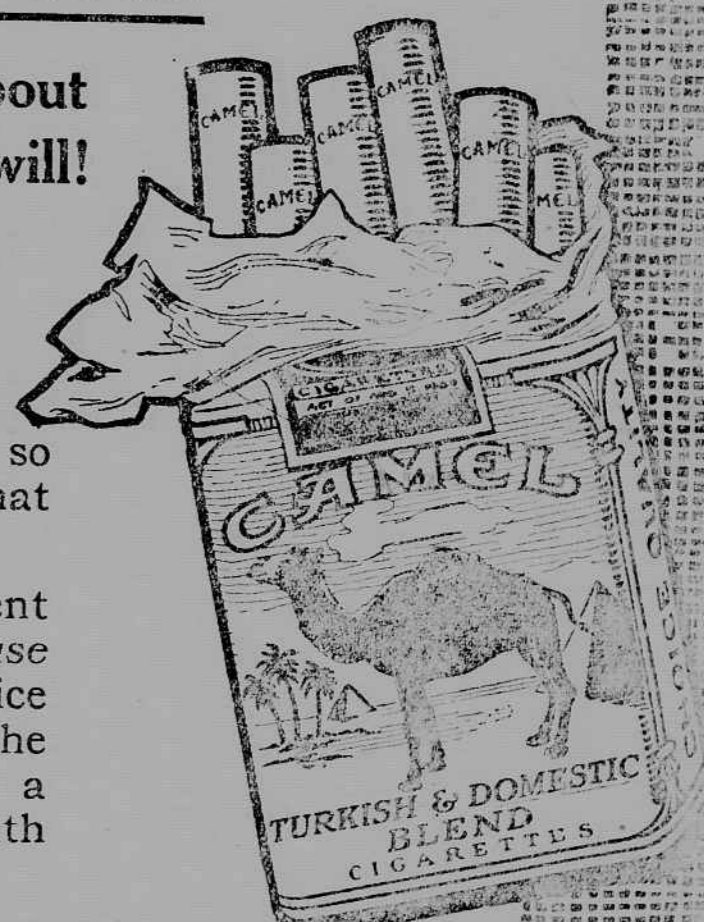
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Among Our Leaders

Conditions of the Platform Contest

The Tribune invites you to write planks for a Republican platform and to write letters about planks proposed by other readers through its columns.

For the best planks and letters The Tribune offers these prizes:

For the best plank.....\$500.00

For the second best plank. 250.00

For each of the eight next best planks..... 100.00

For the best letter a daily prize of..... 10.00

For the best letter in the whole competition..... 100.00

The Tribune will make up a platform of ten planks to be determined by your votes. The ten issues receiving the most votes will be the planks. The ten planks that best express the chosen issues will be selected for the prize awards.

Each plank is limited to 100 words. Of two planks or letters of equal merit the shorter will be chosen.

Every plank and letter must bear the name and address of the sender, although a nom de plume will be published if the writer desires.

The contest will close at midnight, April 30, 1920. Manuscripts will not be returned.

The judges of the contest will be three of The Tribune's editors. They will base their decisions on sound thinking and brevity, clearness and strength of statement.

Cordon & Dilworth
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